

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 01006 061544Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----019063 061545Z /42
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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
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INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1006

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, UNSC, IS, LE, XF
SUBJECT: IDF SOLDIERS CAUGHT BY PALESTINIAN FIRE NEAR TYRE

1. UN SOURCE PROVIDED ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON APRIL 5 INCIDENT INVOLVING KILLING AND WOUNDING OF IDF SOLDIERS IN TYRE AREA. AS OF 1400 LOCAL TIME APRIL 6, SEARCH WAS STILL GOING ON FOR TWO MISSING WOUNDED IDF PERSONNEL. THEY WERE LAST SEEN BY THEIR IDF COMPANIONS EVENING APRIL 5 AND WERE LEFT HIDDEN IN HOUSE NEAR SCENE OF INCIDENT WHICH IS ONLY IDENTIFIED AS VICINITY OF SOUTHERN-MOST FRENCH CHECK-POINT (NEAR AZ ZUHAYRIYAH) UNIFIL AND IDF HAVE BEEN SEARCH-ING AREA. UN SOURCE SAYS IT IS POSSIBLE THAT WOUNDED MEN WERE TAKEN PRISONER IN WHICH CASE THEY LIKELY TO BE IN SIDON HOSPITAL. UN IS CHECKING WITH PLO ON THAT.

2. AS TO INCIDENT ITSELF, FRENCH UNIFIL OFFICIALS HAVE REPORTED THAT THE SEVEN ISRAELI PERSONNEL WERE ALL IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES, HEAVILY-ARMED AND IN A CIVILIAN MINI-BUS WHEN INCIDENT OCCURRED AFTERNOON APRIL 5. ACCORDING TO FRENCH, ISRAELIS WERE TRYING TO AVOID UNIFIL CHECKPOINT AND WERE CAUGHT BY PALESTINIANS WHO
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OPENED FIRE. THREE WERE KILLED, TWO WOUNDED AND THE OTHER TWO ESCAPED AND ARE BACK WITH IDF. INITIAL FRENCH REACTION IS TO CONSIDER INCIDENT A CEASE-FIRE VIOLATION.

3. MATTER DISCUSSED BETWEEN GENERAL ERSKINE AND IDF NORTHERN COMMANDER AT NAQOURA MORNING OF APRIL 6.

SUBSEQUENTLY, GENERAL GUR ASKED FOR AND WAS GRANTED
UNIFIL PERMISSION TO HELP SEARCH AREA.

4. LATE WORD FROM UN AS OF 1700 LOCAL IS THAT
PLO SAYS THEY HAVE FIVE DEAD BODIES IN SIDON. ICRC
HAS BEEN ALERTED AND WILL GO TO SIDON.
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